Coming Biology Information Sessions

Introduction to Graduate school
Dr. Gidi Shemer
Wed, Feb 22 5:00-6:30 pm  107 Wilson Hall

For questions, please contact Dr. Gidi Shemer at bishemer@email.unc.edu
Research Fields

Ecology

Cell and Developmental Biology

Evolutionary Biology

Genetics and Molecular Biology

Organismal and Behavioral Biology

Plant Biology
Undergraduate Research

- What is it?
- Why should I do it?
- Research for credit/paid research
- How do I find the right lab?
- Tips
Undergraduate Research

What is it?

Principle Investigator (PI)

Graduate students
Postdocs
Research associate/lab manager

Undergraduate students
What do I do there?

- You will be mentored by a lab member
- Learn about the big picture and how your project fits into the picture
- Learn the basic techniques
- Gradually becoming more and more independent (in skills AND thinking)
- Meeting with your supervisor and participate in lab meetings
- Write a 10-page paper at the end
Undergraduate Research

Why should I do it?

# 1: Considering doing research in the future

Dr. Jennifer DeLuca
What are graduate schools looking for?

- Undergraduate GPA
- Skills
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores
- Recommendation letters
- Personal statement

Research, research and more research experience
# 2: I DON’T know what I want to do
Why should I do it?

- This is one of the top research institutions in the country!

- You will be part of a team

- You are probably going to be the first person doing this exact experiment

- You will start thinking like a scientist

- The first step toward an Honors thesis
Three options:

- For credit
- Get paid
- Volunteer

Research for credit is not a must, but is preferable

Research for credit is restricted for Biology majors
Credit for Research

BIOL 395

- Prerequisites: 201 or 202
  GPA 3.0 or better

- Duration: 1-2 semesters (up to 6 credit hr.)
  - may be continued as 396 with P/F

- Credit: 3-5 hr. count as a biology elective
  6 hr. count as a biology elective w/ a lab
Counts as Experiential Education
BIOL 295

- **Prerequisites:** 201 or 202
  GPA > 2.0

- **Duration:** Only 1 semester

- **Credit:** Counts for your 120/123 hr.
  Counts as Experiential Education
BIOL 293 - Internship

-Prerequisites: 201 or 202
  GPA > 2.0

-Location: Off campus (e.g. RTP, Alaska)

-Credit: Does NOT count as a biology elective
  Counts for your 120/123 hr.
  Counts as Experiential Education

-Payment: possible

- Make sure it is approved IN ADVANCE

Dr. Steve Matson [smatson@bio.unc.edu]
Dr. Jennifer Coble [JCoble@bio.unc.edu]
BIOL 395 can be taken in the summer (135 hrs. of lab work)  
It does involve registering to summer school (and that means paying for summer school...)  
Another option: find a paid research position, continue with research for credit in the fall semester
BIOL 211-
An introductory course to research in Biology
Dr. Pat Pukkila

211 + 395 = bio elective w/ lab
How do I identify a lab?

1. http://www.bio.unc.edu/

2. http://webapps.med.unc.edu/BBSP/BBSPFaculty/research

   (Office of Undergraduate Research + Liaisons)

Please also look at the CRSP program!
How do I find a lab position?

1) **You have to FIND a lab**: search department websites on your own, look for flyers around science buildings

2) **APPROACH the "P.I." (principal investigator)**; This person is a PhD or MD or runs the lab

3) **ASK/APPLY for a position** (via email with a resume or by walking over to the lab). Impress them like you would do for any job interview. *Address these questions*: Why do you want to do research? What do you want to do it in their lab? What are your strengths? What courses have you taken that are relevant?

“to whom it may concern”
“I couldn’t find any lab position”

Stand out in class and discuss research opportunities with your professor

Look for positions of lab technician and lab assistant

Help Will Bradford and interview faculty for the new website  bradford.will@gmail.com

http://www.bio.unc.edu/ByUndergrads/
Finally, I found a lab, how do I register?

- Pick up a form from Student Services at 213 Coker

- The form requires your PI’s signature. Fill out the form and bring it back. Ms. Summer Montgomery will enroll you

- Deadline: 1st week of the semester
Finally, I found a lab, how do I register?

- If the research is performed in another department, you must identify a **Biology sponsor**

Any special circumstances:

Dr. Gidi Shemer
bishemer@email.unc.edu
Other opportunities

Institute for the Environment

http://www.ie.unc.edu/

Contact Dr. Greg Gangi at 
ggangi@email.unc.edu